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|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Notice of Allowability</b> | Application No.  | Applicant(s)         |
|                               | 10/081,603       | PEDERSEN, STEIN INGE |
|                               | Examiner         | Art Unit             |
|                               | Shefali D. Patel | 2624                 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to 7/31/06.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12 and 15-31.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

JINGGE WU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks on pages 7-11, filed on July 31, 2006 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection has been withdrawn.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1-12 and 14-31 allowed and re-numbered to 1-29.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant invention defines a method of extracting desired features from a cellular image using a plurality of agents starting from one or more starting points as disclosed in claim 1 and computer system, program product in claims 30-31. The claimed invention distinguishes over the prior art by the manner in which the electronic pheromone is associated. The claimed combination allows for improving a method of extracting desired features from a cellular image using a plurality of agents starting from one or more starting points.

This type of method is conventional in the art. However, the prior art of record fails to teach selecting an initial cell within said image; selecting an additional cell, near said initial cell, appearing to be associated with a desired feature; repeating selecting an additional cell step for further cells, near at least one of said previously selected cells, appearing to be associated with said feature, until selection termination criteria are satisfied; and repeating steps of selecting an initial cell, an additional steps and further cells for other initial cells; wherein selection of a cell in step of selecting an additional cell updates an "electronic pheromone" value associated with said cell, wherein said electronic pheromone is associated with one or more of said plurality of agents. These elements in combination with all of the other elements of the claims are not taught or fairly suggested in the prior art of record. The dependent claims 2-12 and 15-29 are allowed for the same reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

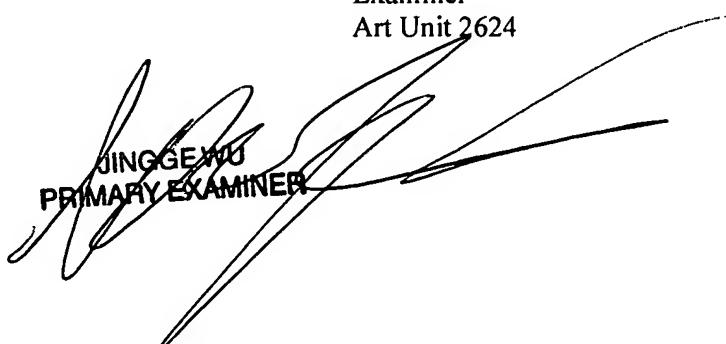
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shefali D. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-7396. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00am - 5:00pm (First Friday Off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu can be reached on (571) 272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Shefali D Patel  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2624

sdp

  
JINGGE WU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER